

28 July 1972

# 14

SITUATION INFORMATION REPORT

With a flare for "guerrilla theater" actions that has won them national attention again and again, the Vietnam Veterans Against the War Organization has emerged as one of the most outspoken militant peace groups in the country.

Founded by six young veterans from New York City in 1967, the current leadership claims the group has grown in size to more than 25,000 members with approximately 8000 active participants. It is interesting to note that a former VVAW officer recently estimated the active membership at closer to 1000. The organization is currently controlled by six national coordinators, each with a specific function, who provide executive leadership to 26 regions throughout the United States. *N.Y.T. 16 Jul 72*

The Vietnam Veterans Against the War adhere to nine objectives. Included among these are demands for an immediate withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam, liberalization of legal rights for servicemen, amnesty for deserters and draft evaders, and changing "the economic institutions that have caused and permitted the continuance of war." *N.Y.T. 16 Jul 72*

The group received widespread attention on 14 July 1972 when six of its national leaders were indicted by a federal grand jury in Tallahassee, Florida, for conspiring to disrupt the Republican National Convention with firebombs and shootings. Previously, the VVAW was involved in another notable action that took place last December when protesters occupied the Statue of Liberty, Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia, Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., a military hospital ward in California and a South Vietnamese consulate in San Francisco, all in the course of one week, to publicize the organization's opposition to the Vietnamese war. *N.Y.T. 16 Jul 72*



John F. Kerry, a 27 year old former Navy Lt. who won a Silver Star, a Bronze Star and 3 Purple Hearts in Vietnam, resigned as the national coordinator of VVAW in December of 1971 to run for a seat in the House of Representatives from the Fifth District in Boston, Mass. Kerry is an eloquent speaker and adhered to a non-violent, knowledgeable protest approach during his tenure as chief spokesman for the VVAW Organization. Since Kerry's resignation, the VVAW has taken on a more militant posture. Witness their recent demonstrations at the Federal Buildings in St. Petersburg, Florida, and Kansas City, Mo.

*with Part 209872, N.V.I., 6/17/72*

With a current philosophy oriented towards violence, particularly hit-and-run tactics, it is possible that VVAW activists will be arrested in acts of civil disobedience during the up and coming Republican National Convention. VVAW has dubbed their planned activities for the GOP Convention, "Operation County Fair." They are not publicly announcing the intended tactics except to demand that President Nixon stand trial for his war crimes in Vietnam. With the presence of VVAW radicals on the scene, the possibility exists that U.S. Government federal buildings in the greater Miami area are susceptible to potential acts of violence during the Republican National Convention.

*15/7/72. while 2. 6. 1. 1/8' #26-75*

CALENDAR OF TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Asterisked items are either reported for the first time, or contain additions or changes to previously reported activities.

\*27-30 July, St. Louis, Mo.

The Peoples Party (a coalition of peace groups which include the New Party and the Peace and Freedom Party) will hold its national nominating convention at the Gateway Hotel in St. Louis on the above dates. The party convention is scheduled to confirm or replace its provisional national candidates, decide strategy for the 1972 political campaign, elect party officers and map out non-electoral activities for the period following the elections.

The Party has nominated Dr. Benjamin Spock, pediatrician and peace activist as a stand-in presidential candidate and Julius Hobson a former Washington, D.C. School Board official for vice-president, pending a convention decision.

*Peace & Freedom Party  
Daily Mail  
11/1/72, 11/1/72  
11 May 72*

\*30 July, Oakland, California

The Venceremos Brigade, a group of U.S. Movement activists who organized young Americans to do voluntary labor in Cuba, is holding a celebration to commemorate Cuba's holiday (July 26) in honor of its revolution.

The event will be held on the above date at the APUMEC Hall (3256 E. 14th St.) at 2 p.m. The feature speakers are Elizabeth Martinez, Robert Allen and Nguyen Van Luy.

\*30 July, Washington, D.C.

The previously reported 4th of July "mass march of jobless" demonstration sponsored by the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson's organization, "People United to Save Humanity" (PUSH), was canceled on 26 June 1972.

In its place, a "Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom" demonstration has been scheduled for Washington, D.C., on 30 July 1972. Participants will assemble at the ellipse starting at 2 p.m. and march to the Lincoln Memorial for a memorial service for all slain civil rights leaders.

An estimated 1000 to 2000 peaceful demonstrators are expected to participate from the following civil rights groups: PUSH, NAACP, SCLC, and the Washington, D.C., Urban League.

\*4-7 August, Washington, D.C.

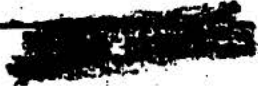
The National Tenants Organization has announced plans to hold their annual conference at George Washington University on the above dates.

Workshops are scheduled on organizing and negotiating the Model Uniform State Landlord-Tenant Law, rural, public and private housing, the role of youth, and a lawyers workshop. Most of the activities will take place at the Marvin Center (800 21st St. N.W.).

\*5 August, Washington, D.C.

The Washington Area Peace Action Coalition plans to sponsor an antiwar demonstration on the above date to memorialize those who died during the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945.

The demonstration will be held on the Ellipse beginning at noon and up to 4000 participants are expected.



\*6 August, Nationwide

The American Friends Service Committee, an antiwar group, and the CPUSA-influenced People's Coalition for Peace and Justice are sponsoring a number of protests to commemorate the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima.

Possible sites for these actions include the railroad terminals at Portland, Oregon, and military shipping terminals at San Francisco; Long Beach, California; Bangor, Washington; Leonardo, New Jersey; and Sunnypoint, North Carolina.

*Annals 1-12 July 72*

\*15-18 August, Dallas, Texas

Reportedly, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference has announced that they will hold their 15th annual convention in Dallas on the above dates.

*27 April 2001, 11:00 AM*

\*21-24 August, Miami Beach, Florida

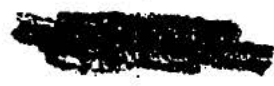
The Republican National Convention undoubtedly will receive the major brunt of radical protest activity this summer. At present, a three-day national action is planned for the GOP National Convention.

On the first day, August 21, there is a massive, legal march scheduled for the benefit of convention delegates and a national viewing audience. Protesting organizations are planning to march in contingents with floats and banners that illustrate their opposition to President Nixon's policies. The purpose of the massive march is to show just how large and diverse are the groups and constituencies opposed to President Nixon's policies.

The second day, August 22, has been reserved for regional and constituency actions. The Miami Convention Coalition, a confederation of antiwar forces, women libbers, gay activists, and other diversified groups, will coordinate these actions. Tentatively planned are a women's action to emphasize the existence of a strong, independent women's presence, an action by the VVAW, and a march of the unemployed.

The third and last day of the GOP National Convention, a mass march is planned to decry the renomination of President Richard M. Nixon.

*FBI - 12637318 4-12 July 72  
L.A. News, 4-12 July 72  
Annals 4-12 July 72*



The overall tone of these demonstrations may be one of confrontation, serious resistance, and/or nonviolent civil disobedience. Law enforcement agencies are aware of the possible threat of serious disruptive activity and violence and have planned accordingly.

\*26 August, Washington, D.C.\*

The National Organization of Women has scheduled a demonstration at the Ellipse in Washington, D.C., on the above date. Leaders of NOW are expecting 200 participants.

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SOURCE: Government and News Media

RELIABILITY: Probably True